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Tsuda-juku Daigaku, Tokyo

Miss Tsuda's School for Girls

Tokyo, Japan

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Miss Tsuda's School for Girls in Tokyo, Japan.

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REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE.

To understand the work of Miss Tsuda's school it is necessary to know something of the woman who is its inspiration.

Ardent enthusiasm, thorough knowledge of the world, great practical ability, and the faith that removes mountains, are a rare combination; but Miss Ume Tsuda has them all. A Japanese, thoroughly Japanese in all her interests and sympathies, she has had the great advantage of knowing the best not only of her own country, but of Western civilization also. Some time in the early seventies, five little Japanese girls, Miss Tsuda, then but seven years old, being one of the number, were sent by the Japanese Government to this country. When they reached the Japanese Legation at Washington, there seemed no place for them anywhere. For some time after their arrival they lived by themselves with only hired attendants, and very homesick and miserable they were. At the end of six months, however, two of the girls returned home, and the other three remained—one of them, now the Marchioness Oyama, adopted by Dr. Leonard Bacon; the second, who is the wife of Admiral Uriu, by J. S. C. Abbott, and Miss Tsuda, by Mr. Charles Lanman, of Washington.

For ten years Miss Tsuda lived as the cherished daughter of the Lanman household, receiving all the

care and training that such a relationship implies. At the end of ten years she returned to Japan, having perfect command of English, and understanding Western life as only those can understand who grow up in it. She reached home to find herself a stranger in a strange land, ignorant not only of the manners and customs of her own people, but even of their very language, though it was her native tongue. A nature less strong than hers might have failed to reconcile the old and the new, and on going from the freer to the more conventional life have spent itself in discontent and vain regret. But Miss Tsuda loved her country and set herself resolutely to work to overcome the difficulties, to master her native tongue, no small undertaking in itself; to learn the ways of her people; in short, to be as good a Japanese as she had become an American.

She was soon appointed interpreter and teacher to the wife of an official high in the Japanese court. Her experience there was of great value, both for the training it gave her, and for the friends she made in the highest circles of Japanese society. At the end of six months she was called home by her mother's illness, and when she was again free was made teacher of English in the Peeresses' School, then just opening. This school, which is under the direct supervision of the Empress, is the most conservative school in all Japan.

After teaching for some time, she decided that to do the best work for her pupils she must herself have the advantage of further training, and having ob-

tained leave of absence from the school, she came to this country and enrolled herself as a student at Bryn Mawr College. Here she remained for three years, not working for a degree, but devoting herself to English, philosophy and science. In science she showed such marked ability that during the last year of her stay she aided the professor of biology in original research.

In 1892, on the expiration of her leave of absence, Miss Tsuda resumed her duties in the Peeresses' School, and in 1897 she was also made lecturer in the Women's Higher Normal School, a high government position. In 1898 she made a third visit to America, this time as a delegate from her government to the International Federation of Women's Clubs, held in Denver that summer. By the invitation of many ladies interested in women's education, she spent much of the following winter in England, studying educational methods. This last visit brought her into great prominence in Japan, and on her return to Tokyo she was even granted the special honor of a private audience with the Empress, an extreme mark of Imperial favor.

It had long been Miss Tsuda's hope that she might start a school which would offer to women in Japan an opportunity for higher work. In this connection a friend in Tokyo wrote: "Miss Tsuda occupies a unique position here. No one doubts her ability, her honesty or her Christianity. Whatever stand she takes, every one knows exactly where to find her, and she has won her way just by sheer force of honesty

and ability to a position of universal respect. The work that she can do in a school of the kind that she proposes is a very great one." And Bishop McKim, who has long been her friend, gave the same testimony: "Miss Tsuda is an enthusiast on the subject of the education of Japanese women; but she has what is wanting in many enthusiasts—knowledge founded upon successful experience. Teaching has been her profession for many years, and I know of no woman in Japan whose reputation as an educator stands higher than hers. She is pre-eminently qualified for the work she wishes to do as a Christian teacher of Japanese girls and young women. I am positive that her work will be a success from the beginning."

Such is the woman who in the face, not only of obstacles standing against an effort to give higher education to women, but also of great pecuniary difficulty, resigned her position in the government schools, together with her official rank and title, so that she might be free to do her work in the lines she felt were needed for Japan. What has been accomplished even in the few years since that time may best be seen from the accompanying report of the school.

Report of Miss Tsuda's School.

(Joshi Eigaku Juku.)

In April, 1904, the Joshi Eigaku Juku graduated the first class from its full three years' course, the graduating class of the year before having taken only the last two years' work. In these three years and a half since it opened, in September of 1900, the growth of the school has astonished even those who had most faith in its ultimate success, and it has been no small strain to keep up with the constantly increasing needs, not only of space, but of a suitable teaching staff. That it has been done—at least as far as absolute necessities were concerned—is due to the help of friends on both sides of the globe, who have given the support in money and time which have made the school a possibility.

Early in 1900 Miss Tsuda wrote to some of her personal friends in America, asking whether they could help her to carry out a plan which—as many of them knew—she had long had in mind, namely, to open a school for girls, and especially for those who wished to become teachers, where they could be educated under Christian influences, and given a more advanced course than was yet open to them elsewhere. She asked whether it was possible for her friends to raise four thousand dollars with which to obtain a house where she might make the experiment. Miss Tsuda believed that in five years she could prove to

the Japanese world the capacity of women for advanced education, and that by the end of that time the school would make for itself a place from which it might graduate into a still higher institution. Her plan was to begin by making a specialty of English, on account of the great demand for it, which she felt sure would make financial success possible as no other subject would; and she felt also that the moment for the experiment had come, both because of this growing demand for English and for well-trained English teachers, and because Miss Alice M. Bacon was now prepared to fulfill an old promise and return to Japan to help start the school.

The result of these letters was that a number of Miss Tsuda's friends made themselves into an informal committee, with Mrs. Wistar Morris, of Overbrook, Pa., at their head, and wrote to Miss Tsuda that while they could make no definite promise, they would do what they could towards raising the four thousand dollars, or a part of it. Before leaving for Japan, Miss Bacon attended a meeting of the committee and their friends and sympathizers, at the house of the Misses Blanchard, Walnut Street, Philadelphia, and told in some detail Miss Tsuda's hopes and plans.

Meanwhile Miss Tsuda had decided to go forward in any case and do what she could, and accordingly resigned her position in the Peeresses' School, and rented a small house, where on September 11th, 1900, the Joshi Eigaku Juku opened with fifteen pupils. The only teacher besides Miss Bacon and

Miss Tsuda was Mr. H. Sakurai, who has thus been identified with the school from the beginning. From the beginning, also, the Marchioness Oyama has given the undertaking most valuable encouragement and support in the character of Komon, which may be freely translated "Honorary Adviser."

Such encouragement was of no small value during that first winter, when the school literally had need of all things; for, while its Japanese friends were sympathetic, their gifts were of necessity small. Miss Bacon's typewriter often came into play, to provide extracts for the literature classes; and hymns so copied did duty at morning prayers, one serving for a week, while the next was being prepared. But the enthusiasm of teachers and pupils alike carried them over the difficulties and discomforts of lack of books, cramped space, scanty furniture and poor light. Indeed, no little share of the credit for the school's success belongs to the first class of students. Miss Tsuda had announced a three years' course in English, leading up to the government examination for teachers' certificate, a preparation offered in that branch by no other girls' school; and the greater part of those who entered were graduates of other—chiefly mission—schools, some of whom had already been teachers, and wished to go up for these examinations for the coveted higher certificate. Their earnestness and responsiveness were not only most encouraging to the instructors, but established a certain standard of zeal and character which we hope will always continue to be the spirit of the school.

By the first of January, 1901, the number of day and boarding pupils had increased to thirty, and the tiny seven-roomed house was most uncomfortably packed, while there were fresh applicants for the new school year, which in Japan usually begins in April. As increase of numbers meant increase of fees, with comparatively little additional expense, it was most desirable to find some way to accommodate the new applicants. Just at this time the first gift—$2,000—was received from America. It was now possible to make the much-desired move. To find a suitable building within the limit of price was not easy, especially as there was not enough for house and land both; but, after much perplexity, Miss Tsuda purchased a large old house at 41 Motozono Cho, Koji-machi, and leased the ground on which it stood for $30 a month, building besides a small house of six rooms as a teachers' house. The schoolhouse and the necessary repairs on it cost $1,500; the teachers' house, $700, to cover which the American drafts came just in time.

Far from sumptuous the old house certainly was, with leaking roofs and sagging beams, but at least for the moment there was enough room, and the move was made with much rejoicing. There was now fairly comfortable accommodation for twenty boarders and about forty day scholars, which seemed ample provision for growth, at least for two or three years to come. But by July the total number of pupils had run up to fifty, and before the end of that year it was evident that the school would soon have to

make another move, or sacrifice a part of its capacity for usefulness.

By the end of December the total amount of money given by the committee was $3,900. Contributions from friends in Japan also amounted to yen 3,520.40. The greatest gift to the work, however, was personal contribution of time from many teachers, both foreign and Japanese. Without this help from some of the best teachers in Tokyo, the school could hardly have come through its first difficult years, and certainly could not have had its unexpected success.

By this time Miss Bacon's promised two years were up, and in April, 1903, she returned to America. Two months later, Miss Anna C. Hartshorne came out to help Miss Tsuda, but remained only till January. She returned to Japan, however, in February, 1904. In the meantime Miss Fanny Greene and Miss Mary Very joined the teaching staff, and the Japanese teachers numbered seven.

In the summer of 1902 an opportunity came to purchase a most desirable property at 16 Go Ban Cho, close to the Motozono house, containing nearly 500 tsubo, or 100 feet front by nearly 300 feet depth, and situated on high ground, directly behind the British Legation. This property originally belonged to the American Church Mission, and had on it a building which had been the dormitory of a girls' school. It had been sold to a private school, and the owner was willing to sell it back for what she had paid the Mission, namely, $5,000 for the house

and ground, a price much below the market value. Miss Tsuda's advisers urged her not to let such an opportunity slip, and a personal friend enabled her to borrow what she lacked of the purchase money. Early in the following year a most welcome gift of $6,000 from Mrs. Woods, of Boston, finished paying for this property and for a strip 50 feet wide alongside of it, without which there was not space enough for the buildings immediately necessary.

By the end of January, 1903, a school building was put up with gifts from friends in Japan. It contains an assembly room and reading room, which can be thrown together by taking down partitions, and three class rooms, teachers' room and office. A second building, put up the following summer (1903), provides six more class rooms and a large room for the day scholars. The two houses are connected by passages both upstairs and down. Finally, in the winter of 1903, a dormitory was built, accommodating thirty girls. The dormitory and school buildings are all in Japanese style, and cost $5,243. A small gymnasium was also put up during the war time in the summer of 1905, chiefly through the aid of graduates. All the buildings were finally paid for in September, 1905, the last payment of $2,000 being through the effort of the Japanese committee formed that year. A piece of ground adjoining is held for the school at present in hopes that some day it may be paid for. Its original value was $5,000, of which only $1,200 has been paid.

In September, 1904, the school was incorporated,

and previously, in March, the standing of the school was recognized by the Department of Education as a Semmon Gakko (Higher Special School). In 1905 the same Department granted to graduates of the normal course of the school the teachers' license in English (admitting to positions in government high and normal schools), a privilege given to no other private school in Japan for girls. Under the new rules, which place the school on the same standard as the regular graded series of government institutions, all who enter the three years' course must pass the government high school graduating examinations, which include Japanese literature and mathematics, science, history, geography, etc. Thus far the literary course is the only one offered after entrance, Japanese, Chinese, ethics, psychology, history, etc., being included. The school's ideal is to add a science course at the earliest possible moment. It is simply a question of money. Much of the teaching in the school is still given, and all available income goes to teachers' salaries, so the further courses must wait.

In 1906, in the sixth year of work, the school had thirty-one graduates. Of these, eight have passed the government examination for the English teachers' certificate, nine are teaching in Tokyo government and private schools, and two are in the country, while several have worked in other lines as interpreters or governesses. Many of the undergraduates and graduates help themselves through the course by giving private lessons in English, which from the third year on they are quite capable of doing well.

Those who graduate in the teachers' course are obliged to teach a certain number of hours a week in Miss Tsuda's own school before graduation as a part of their regular training, besides attending her course on teaching.

School opens with a short religious service, given in Japanese and English on alternate days. This the girls in the boarding home are required to attend, and the day scholars are encouraged to do so; the same is true of attending a church service on Sunday morning, and the Sunday School in the afternoon. In all things it is the object of the school to develop character, to strengthen the girls not only mentally and physically, but spiritually, and to make them feel that the true object of study is not their own personal pleasure or advancement, but the power to help others.

It is the belief of Miss Tsuda also that what would best help Japanese girls to adequately fill their place in the new life of their country is an understanding of Western ideals and Western thought,—a key to which is the study of English.

Dr. John H. Deforest, one of the oldest missionaries to Japan, says: "There are many excellent schools for the education of girls in Japan. The educational department is very much in earnest in developing government schools for girls. There are many finely-equipped missionary schools for the higher education of girls. But Miss Tsuda's differs from them all in being the only one that is Christian, yet interdenominational; that is, Japanese, yet international."

Such are a few of the facts of the school, which has struggled under heavy financial burdens, since rates for board and tuition are low, 11 yen ($5.50) a month for board and tuition. Its future needs are most pressing, since, without more school rooms and a new dormitory, the work is restricted and the school must sacrifice its usefulness. The school now numbers about 150, all that can be accommodated, with a waiting list, applicants for entrance often being double the number which can be taken.

Five thousand dollars would cover the immediate need for more buildings, $2,500 for additional school rooms, and $2,500 for a dormitory to hold thirty girls, one room accommodating two girls, costing only $150. Above all, an adequate endowment fund of $50,000, ensuring a yearly income of $2,000 or $3,000, if secured, would relieve Miss Tsuda of pecuniary anxiety and permit her to turn all her great energy into making the school which has already done so much, still more of an educational factor, perhaps even the first real college for women in Japan.

Short as its time has been, the school has more than proved its right to a place; it lacks only the means to add all the departments of a college. The girls are ready, the teachers are ready; but without an endowment nothing more can be done. Higher education cannot pay for itself in Japan any more than elsewhere. But the girls must be educated; modern life demands it; if they know nothing of Western thought, the gulf between them and their

modernized husbands is far wider than in the old days. Fifty years ago America forced Japan to open her doors to the world, and Japan to-day is very grateful. May we not hope that Americans will help to open what is best in the Western world to the women of New Japan?

Miss Tsuda is now on a visit to this country, and the American Committee are most anxious to secure aid for the needs of the work. They will be glad to put Miss Tsuda in communication with any one wishing to learn from her personally the conditions and work of the school. Contributions may be sent directly to the treasurer, Mr. Charles Hartshorne, Merion, Pa., or to any member of the committee.

MISS TSUDAS SCHOOL for GIRLS in TOKYO JAPAN

Six years ago in a modest side street in Tokyo was opened the Joshi Eigaku Juku, a girls' school for advanced work in English. It began very simply with some fifteen pupils in a tiny house, so small that practically every room must serve for a school room, with few books and no paraphernalia, not even hymnals for use in the morning services. Yet from the first it bore the stamp of the unusual and its success has more than fulfilled the hopes of its founder. It has been twice removed to larger quarters and is now finally settled in one of the most advantageous sites in the city with a dormitory for thirty boarders and other school buildings. The school now numbers about 150 all that can be accommodated, with a waiting list, the pupils coming from all classes of society. The standard of work done is shown by the fact that the graduates of its normal course receive from the government the teacher's license in English (admitting to positions in government high and normal schools) a privilege granted to no other girls' school. Applications for teachers from among the graduates are yearly more numerous than can be filled.

Such is the outward success of the school. Its inner purpose is less easily to be measured : to give to Japanese girls an opportunity for advanced work in Christian atmosphere. It was the belief of the founder, Miss Ume Tsuda, that what would best help Japanese girls to adequately fill their place in the new life of their country was an understanding of western ideals and the best western thought, a key to which is the study of English. No one could be better fitted to teach these ideals than Miss Tsuda. Through her training in this country both as a young girl and as an older student, her study of educational methods in England and America, and her years of teaching in the Peeress's School, the most conservative school in Japan, she has more, than any other Japanese woman, the understanding of East and West. She knows as no one else can know what will be useful to her country women in their new freedom and responsibility, and what are the dangers to be avoided. The work she has already done in these momentous years cannot be calculated. What more she might accomplish under the right conditions even those who know her best can hardly guess. Schools in Japan can never be self supporting since rates for board and tuition are

impossibly low, 11 yen ($5.50) a month for board and tuition. Miss Tsuda's school so far has struggled on under heavy financial burdens. Its existence has depended on gifts of money for land and buildings from friends in America and Japan, of unlimited time and services in teaching from friends in Tokyo. But its future needs are most pressing, a new school building, dormitories and, most of all, an adequate endowment fund of $50,000, ensuring a yearly income of $2,000, or $3,000. If such a sum could be secured Miss Tsuda might then be freed from pecuniary anxiety and be able to turn all her great energy into making the school which has already done so much, still more of an educational factor, perhaps even the first real college for women in Japan.

Miss Tsuda is now on a visit to this country and the American Committee are most anxious to secure this endowment fund during her stay here. They will be glad to put Miss Tsuda in communication with any one wishing to learn from her personally the conditions and work of the school. Contributions may be sent directly to the treasurer, Mr. Charles Hartshorne, Merion, Pa., or to any member of the Committee.

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